

LAKE CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT
2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Boise National Forest
Mountain Home Ranger District

INTRODUCTION

The following information is direction on how livestock management is to be conducted on the Lake Creek C&H (C&H) Allotment for the 2015 grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are made part of your Term grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a), and you are responsible for compliance with this direction.

Situations may develop during the grazing season that could require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Monte Miller at 373-4243 or Holly Hampton at 587-7867, and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from this AOI. Failure to obtain prior approval could result in permit action.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Lake Creek Allotment:

Allotment Name	Permitted Number and Class	Permitted Season of Use
Lake Creek	266 yearlings	6/25-10/20
pvt land permit	39 cow/calf	6/25-10/20

For the 2015 grazing season, you are authorized to graze the Lake Creek Allotment as follows:

Allotment name	Authorized Number and Class	Authorized Season of Use
Lake Creek	250 yearlings	REST

Some flexibility will be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. The period of use is also subject to compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines as discussed below. Please review carefully the standards and guides listed.

BILLING INFORMATION- Will not apply for 2015 grazing season due to rest.

The grazing fee for the 2015 grazing season is \$1.69 per head month for cattle. You will be billed based on the authorized use listed above. Confirmation of payment through the National Finance Center is required and must be received before livestock can enter National Forest System lands. In order to meet this requirement, please ensure that bills for collection are paid by the due date indicated.

If permitted livestock are required to leave an allotment early because utilization standards have been reached, drought conditions persist or other reasons as determined

by the Forest Officer, a credit/refund may be requested. **This request must be submitted in writing to the District Ranger by December 1, 2015.**

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Due to the Elk Fire in 2013 Forest Service Lands in the Lake Creek Allotment will be rested for a minimum of two growing seasons.

The Lake Creek C&H Allotment had a majority of its landscape burned at low to moderate severity. A few portions were burned at high severity in the far western portion of the allotment. Approximately 95% of the allotment is in the burn area.

The Lake Creek Allotment will need to be rested for a minimum of two growing seasons. Length of closure will depend on the seeding/seedling establishment, and the natural re-vegetative recovery rate of the burned area. One set of corrals approximately 1.5 miles of fence were lost in the fire. Fence will need to be replaced in 2015, and the corrals are almost complete.

Table. 5 Lake Creek C&H Allotment –Fire Effects	
Number of Permitted Cattle	266 yearlings; 39 cow/calf (pvt.)
Season of use	06/25 to 10/20
Approximate % of Allotment Burned	95% (2,411 of 2,530 acres)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx. 90% of allotment is NFS lands	

STANDARDS AND GUIDES- Will not apply for 2015 grazing season due to rest.

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management, including reductions in Head Months or permitted area.

The following Boise National Forest Plan Standards and guidelines, as well as standards and guidelines included in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit apply to the Lake Creek Allotment:

- Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.
 - Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
 - Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions or late season pastures – 50 percent use. (RAST01, p. III-45)
- The riparian pasture on the Lake Creek allotment has a 45 percent utilization or a 4-inch stubble height, whichever occurs first, that is not an end-of-season standard.

- Livestock salting is prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). Place salt no closer than ¼ mile from water and not within 100 feet of roads. Move salt from areas where utilization standards have been met. (RAST04, p. III-45)
- All livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (RAST09, p. III-45)
- Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.
- Bulls must test negative for Trichomoniasis before entering National Forest System lands.
- Only certified weed-free hay and mulch are allowed on National Forest System lands.

IMPROVEMENTS

The following improvements need to have maintenance completed prior to the end of the 2015 fiscal year. The Lake Creek Corral is almost completed except for replacing the loading chute.

Item #	Improvement Name	Improvement #	Improvement Type (3-wire fence, water trough, etc.)	Allotment Name	Improvement Location (also see maps)
1	Lake Creek Fence	1154	3- wire fence	Lake Creek	NENE Section 21, T1N R9E
2	Lake Creek/Fall Creek Fence	1654	3- wire fence	Lake Creek	NENE Section 21, T1N R9E
3	Lake Creek Corral	1948	Corral	Lake Creek	Section 22, T1N R9E

Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on each allotment. Failure to do so is a violation of your term grazing permit and is subject to permit action. In the event improvements cannot be practically maintained to standard, you should notify this office so we can identify them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Non-functioning range improvements need to be brought to standard, or arrangements made with district range personnel to have them removed. Abandonment of improvements is not acceptable – if developments are not functioning and are no longer needed, they must be removed. If they are in a location that does not allow for removal, these non-functioning improvements still need to allow for bird and small mammal escape. Metal troughs need to have holes cut in them large enough to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them or be tipped over so that they do not hold water. Tires also need to have holes cut in them, or be popped loose from their cement bottom and propped up slightly on edge, to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them. If none of these options are feasible, a wildlife escape ramp needs to be installed and maintained in the trough.

Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in tire troughs. These ramps are being supplied by the Forest Service. These ladders should be installed in all tire troughs on the Lake Creek Allotment prior to turn on. This direction also includes troughs that hold water in the spring but dry up later in the grazing season. Failure to comply could result in adverse action to your permit. Please contact Monte or Holly as soon as possible if you need to pick up escape ramps.

The Riparian Pasture fence and Lake Creek/Fall Creek fence is part of your maintenance responsibilities. You will be responsible for reconstructing the fences prior to the end of September 2015.

The spring development below the corral should be checked during the 2015 grazing season to ensure it is working properly.

Cattleguards are no longer considered part of your annual maintenance. It is still your responsibility to inspect cattleguards annually and inform the Forest Service of known problems or maintenance needs on them within your allotment boundaries. This includes, but is not limited to, wing or grate repair or replacement, brush removal, and cleaning.

RIDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS- Will not apply for 2015 grazing season due to rest.

Off date for this allotment are considered approximate and will depend on utilization levels. To prevent over-utilization, a concerted effort should be made to distribute cattle over the entire allotment and to effectively graze all suitable areas in that unit. Permitted numbers are based on the premise that active management will occur to effect adequate livestock distribution. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and water developments without being distributed to unused areas of the allotment, the grazing capacity of the allotment is diminished to those areas only.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since permittees will be held accountable for any failures to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

REQUIRED REPORTING -Will not apply for 2015 grazing season due to rest.

Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2014 grazing season for the Lake Creek Allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotment, the number and date cattle are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions, including livestock herding and improvement maintenance, associated with the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. **This report should be returned to the Mountain Home Ranger District no later than December 1, 2015.**

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING -Will not apply for 2015 grazing season due to rest.

Range personnel may require you to delay your entry date on the Lake Creek Allotment based on range readiness inspections that they have completed. You will be notified as soon as possible if your turn-on date is delayed.

Range personnel may conduct utilization monitoring and improvement inspections periodically on your allotments.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The Regional Wildlife Wolf Biologist for the Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her. She can be reached at 208-465-8465 ext. 350.

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services contact for this area is Jered Hedelius. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756. In the event that you cannot reach Jered, Todd Grimm should be contacted at the Boise District Office at 208-373-1630.

OTHER

When livestock carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads, trails or water reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each site specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are a number of reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses. In most cases, carcasses should be moved at least 100 yards from campgrounds, roads, trails or water. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Mountain Home Ranger District. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. However, specific routes will need to be identified each year. See description of routes needed for administrative use below. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. **Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is not included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.**

Routes Approved for Administrative Use:

1) Tate's Flat Loop Road (Located off 113 Road) Access to 2 Ponds

*Portion of this is on private, not Forest Service

2) Spur Road off 113A (Goes North)

3) Spur Road off 113 (Section 14)

Stephanez Church	5/19/15
District Ranger	Date